

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-13 are pending, with claims 1 and 6 being independent. In the present response, claim 9 has been amended to address a minor typographical error. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 6-8 and 10-13.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as allegedly lacking antecedent basis for the claim term “the ice tray”. Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, Applicants have amended claim 9 to recite “an ice tray” to expedite prosecution. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection has been obviated.

Claim Rejections in view of Goetz

The Office Action indicates that claims 1, 10, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,964,097 (“Goetz”). Claims 2-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Goetz.

Applicants note that claims claims 6-8 and 10-13 are indicated as allowed in both the Office Action Summary and in the Examiner’s comments on page 3. Accordingly, it is believed that the inclusion of claims 10 and 11 in the rejected claims was a typographical error and Applicants do not address claims 10 and 11 herein.

Applicants respectfully disagree with these rejections; therefore, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

Goetz discloses a device for producing cold and/or heat by chemical reaction comprising two reactors, a first housing for receiving the as from the reactors, and a second

housing for delivering gas to the reactors. Goetz also discloses a process for carrying out chemical reactions between at least one salt and a gas in the above-described device. The process comprises *running a first reactor*, by making its salt react with the gas, between the pressure of an enclosure designed to receive the gas and the pressure of an enclosure designed to deliver the gas and *simultaneously, running a second reactor*, by making its salt react with the gas, between the pressure of an enclosure designed to receive the gas and a pressure below that of an enclosure designed to deliver the gas to the first reactor. (Col. 2, lines 27-42, emphasis added). As such, the method of Goetz is a method wherein the two procedures are carried out simultaneously.

The process of Goetz occurs in a device comprising two reactors, a *first housing* for receiving the gas from the reactors, and a *second housing* for delivering gas to the reactors. (Abstract). The first housing is a condenser and the second housing is an evaporator. (Col. 3, lines 1-3). During operation, the first reactor is brought into fluid communication with either the condenser or the evaporator. Likewise, the second reactor is brought into fluid communication with either the condenser or the evaporator. (Cols. 3-4). As such, the method of Goetz is a method wherein the *two reactors are used simultaneously in combination with two separate and distinct housings, the condenser and the evaporator*.

In contrast, the presently claimed method of claim 1 comprises a working cycle with three separate phases. In the first step, the chamber (1) is isolated and the chambers (EC) and (2) are brought into communication in order to carry out the exothermic synthesis in (2), the heat produced being absorbed by the chamber (1). In the second step, the chamber (2) is isolated and the chambers (EC) and (1) are brought into communication in order to carry out the exothermic synthesis in (1), the heat produced being absorbed by the chamber (2). In the third step, the three chambers are brought into communication and thermal energy is supplied to the chamber (1) in order to carry out the exothermic decomposition steps in (1) and in (2), for the purpose of regenerating the installation, which is then left to return to the ambient temperature. As claimed and described in the specification, the chamber (EC) is an endothermic component, which is an “evaporator/condenser” element formed of a single chamber that acts alternatively as an evaporator or as a condenser.

Applicants respectfully submit that Goetz does not disclose or suggest the presently claimed method of refrigeration. Applicants respectfully submit Goetz does not disclose or suggest the first and second steps of the presently claimed method of claim 1. Goetz does not disclose or suggest a first step wherein the chamber (1) is isolated and the chambers (EC) and (2) are brought into communication in order to carry out the exothermic synthesis in (2). Goetz does not disclose or suggest a second step wherein the chamber (1) is isolated and the chamber (EC) and (2) are brought into communication in order to carry out the exothermic synthesis in (1).

In the presently claimed method, during the *first step* or phase *only one of the reactors* (reactor (2)) is working in “production” mode and this reactor is used in combination with *only one “evaporator/condenser” element*. During the *second step* or phase *only one of the reactors* (reactor (1)) is working in “production” mode and this reactor is used in combination with *only one “evaporator/condenser” element*. In contrast, in Goetz, the *two reactors are used simultaneously in combination with two separate and distinct housings, the condenser and the evaporator*.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit Goetz does not disclose or suggest a first step of exothermic synthesis, a second step of exothermic synthesis, and a third regeneration step as required by the presently claimed method of claim 1. The presently claimed method of claim 1 requires a first step in which exothermic synthesis is carried out in only one of the reactors (reactor (2)) and a second step in which exothermic synthesis is carried out in only one of the reactors (reactor (1)). The presently claimed method of claim 1 further requires a third regeneration step. These three distinct steps are performed successively in order. In contrast, during the process of Goetz, an exothermic synthesis occurs in the first reactor while another exothermic synthesis occurs simultaneously in the second reactor. No regeneration step takes place. (Cols. 3-4).

For at least the above-reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and § 103(a).

Conclusion

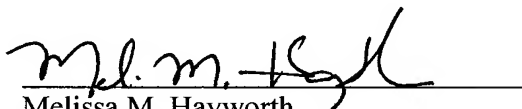
For the reasons noted above, the art of record does not disclose or suggest the inventive concept of the present invention as defined by the claims.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the claims and allowance of the subject application is earnestly solicited. In the event that there are any questions relating to this application, it would be appreciate if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney concerning such questions so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #104011.B130113).

Respectfully submitted,

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